

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 06336 201632Z

65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03

ACDA-07 SAM-01 OMB-01 NEAE-00 /088 W

----- 100844

P R 201603Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9653

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 6336

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, EG

SUBJECT: SYRIAN PRESS CASTIGATES CAIRO FOR CAUSING FAILURE OF
SECOND CHTAURA MEETING

1. SEPT. 20 AL-BAATH PUBLISHED FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL ENTITLED,
"WHY THE SECOND CHTAURA MEETING FAILED." WHICH CASTIGATED EGYPT FOR
SABOTAGING SYRIAN EFFORTS TO SETTLE LEBANESE CRISIS. EDITORIAL NOTED,
"IN PRINCIPLE IT IS NOT IN SADAT'S INTEREST THAT FIGHTING BE STOPPED
AND
NORMAL LIFE RESTORED IN LEBANON IF THIS ACHIEVED WITH SYRIAN AID."
CONTINUATION OF CRISIS WOULD PERMIT SADAT REGIME TO IMPLEMENT NEXT
PHASE OF SINAI ACCORD, LISTED AS TERMINATION OF STATE OF WAR WITH
ISRAEL. "FAILURE OF SECOND CHTAURA MEETING CONFIRMS
OUR SUSPICIONS OF RECENT SADAT MOVES AND
HIS SUDDEN MEETINGS WITH LEBANESE PARTIES, AS THESE MOVES AMOUNT TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 06336 201632Z

MANUEVER TO LIMIT EVERY SINCERE EFFORT TO RESCUE LEBANON."

AL-BAATH EXPLAINED SADAT'S DIPLOMATIC MOVES AND SUCCESS OF FIRST CHTAURA MEETING AS DERIVING FROM EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT'S PRE-ELECTION STRATEGY. NOTED THAT AFTER RENEWAL OF SADAT'S TERM, JUMBLATT AND ABU IYAD ISSUED "WAR-LIKE STATEMENTS (AIMED AT) ESCALATING SITUATION AND UNDERMINING POSITIVE RESULTS OF FIRST CHTAURA MEETING." EDITORIAL POSED RHETORICAL QUESTION WHETHER ANY PARTY COULD STILL BELIEVE IT HAD CAPABILITY TO REACH FINAL MILITARY VICTORY. EDITORIAL REITERATED SYRIAN INTENTION TO RESIST EFFORTS BY SADAT, JUMBLATT AND SALAH KHALAF TO CONTINUE FIGHTING.

2. COMMENT. CONTRIBUTING TO EVIDENT FAILURE OF SECOND CHTAURA MEETING TO REGISTER ANY PROGRESS MAY HAVE BEEN, UNDERSTANDABLE RELUCTANCE IN DAMASCUS TO HAND SATAT ANY EASY PROPAGANDA VICTORY IN CONNECTION WITH LATEST SESSION WHICH FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY ON SARKIS' RETURN FROM CAIRO. THIS IS NOT TO DENY THE INHERENT DIFFICULTY

OF THESE TALKS GIVEN THE LARGE GAP STILL SEPARATING SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN POSITIONS. ILLUSTRATIVE OF SYRIA'S CURRENT ATTITUDES TOWARDS PLO LEADERSHIP WAS COMMENT MADE SEPTEMBER 17 BY GEN. JAMIL TO RELIABLE SOURCE THAT BEFORE ANY ASAD-ARAFAT MEETING COULD OCCUR, ARAFAT WILL HAVE TO KISS OUR HAND."
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PEACE TALKS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC06336
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760355-0020
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760942/aaaabjxx.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN PRESS CASTIGATES CAIRO FOR CAUSING FAILURE OF SECOND CHTAURA MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006